

In the Specification:

Please replace paragraphs 0027 and 0028 with the following amended paragraphs 0027 and 0028:

[0027] The top 12 of the carrier 10 includes a plurality of towers or protrusions 14. In the preferred embodiment, the top 12 of the carrier 10 includes four towers 14, one at each corner, which provide a at least one and preferably first and second support channels 15' and 15" for the straps 16 that secures both the equipment to the carrier 10 as well as the carrier 10 to the automobile (not shown). The straps 16 can be any fastening device known to those skilled in the art such as rope, twine, cable, chain, utility straps, or the like, but are preferably nylon or polypropylene utility straps. The straps 16 also preferably include a buckle, fastener (such as loop/hook fastener) to allow the user to tighten and secure the carrier 10 as will be described in greater detail below.

[0028] The carrier 10 also preferably includes a ~~second~~third and fourth channels 28, FIG. 7, disposed on the ends 18 which works in conjunction with the channels 15 formed by the towers 14.

The channels 15, 28 provide a region or groove for the strap 16 to grip on the carrier 10, thus providing the carrier 10 with additional strength. In a preferred embodiment, the carrier 10

includes a fifth~~third~~ channel 30, FIG. 8 disposed through the bottom 32 of the carrier 10. In this embodiment, a first strap 16' is used to secure the equipment to the carrier and is placed through the first, third~~second~~, and fifth~~third~~ channels 15, 28, 30. A second strap 16" is then placed around at least the first channel 15 (and possible partly through the second channel 28) and is secured to the automobile as will be described in greater detail below. In this embodiment, the carrier 10 is placed directly on the surface of the roof.